
The Triennial Comprehensive Report on Immigration

Acronyms and Glossary

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Acronyms

ABC	American Baptist Churches
ACF	Administration for Children and Families
ADAMHA	Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Administration
ADD	Administration on Developmental Disabilities
ADMS	Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Mental Health Services
AFDC	Aid to Families with Dependent Children
AIDS	acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
AoA	Administration on Aging
ASPE	Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, DHHS
BEA	Bureau of Economic Analysis
C/MHC	Community/Migrant Health Centers
CACFP	Child and Adult Care Food Program
CARE	Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CMHS	Center for Mental Health Services
CPS	Current Population Survey
CSAT	Center for Substance Abuse Treatment
CSPA	Chinese Student Protection Act
CPST	Commission on Professionals in Science and Technology
CSBG	Community Services Block Grant
CSE	Child Support Enforcement
CYT	Cannabis Youth Treatment
DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services
DOC	Department of Commerce
DOEd	Department of Education
DOL	Department of Labor
DOS	Department of State
DV	Diversity Visa
EA	Emergency Assistance
EC	Enterprise Communities
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPR	employment-to-population ratio
EU	European Union
EWI	entries without inspection
EZ	Empowerment Zone
FNS	Food and Nutrition Service
FPL	Federal poverty level
FSP	Food Stamp Program
FY	fiscal year
GA	General Assistance
GAO	General Accounting Office
GDP	gross domestic product
GFA	Guidance for Applicants
GMA	General Medical Assistance
HCFA	Health Care Financing Administration
HCH	Health Care for the Homeless
HD	Hansen's disease
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
HRIFA	Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act
HRSA	Health Resources and Services Administration

HSHC	Healthy Schools, Healthy Communities
HSRI	Human Services Research institute
HUD	Department of Housing and Urban Development
IIRIRA	Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act
IMMACT90	Immigration Act of 1990
INA	Immigration and Nationality Act
INS	Immigration and Naturalization Service
IRCA	Immigration Reform and Control Act
IQCS	Integrated Quality Control System
JOLI	Job Opportunities for Low Income Individuals
KD	Knowledge development
KD&A	Knowledge development and application
LAPR	Lawfully admitted permanent resident
LEA	Local Educational Agency
LEP	limited English proficient
LIHEAP	Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
LIRS	Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
LPS2	Second Legalized Persons Survey
MCH	Maternal and Child Health
MHSH	Mental Health Services to the Homeless
MSA	Metropolitan Statistical Area
NACARA	Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement
NAS	National Academy of Sciences
NHDP	National Hansen's Disease Program
NHIS	National Health Interview Survey
NIA	National Institute on Aging
NICHD	National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
NIS	New Immigrant Survey
NPRM	Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
NSCG	National Survey of College Graduates
NSLP	National School Lunch Program
NSF	National Science Foundation
OCS	Office of Community Services
ODP	U.S. Orderly Departure Program
OIG	Office of the Inspector General
ORR	Office of Refugee Resettlement
P&A	Protection and Advocacy
PAIMI	Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness
PATH	Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness
PHPC	Public Housing Primary Care
PHS	Public Health Service
PLC	Permanent Labor Certification
PNS	Projects of National Significance
PRC	People's Republic of China
PRUCOL	permanently residing in the United States under color of law
PRWORA	Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act
QC	Quality Control
RCA	Refugee Cash Assistance
RMHP	Refugee Mental Health Program
RMA	Refugee Medical Assistance
RSDI	Social Security Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance
S&E	science and engineering
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
SAPT	Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment
SAVE	Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements

SAW	Special Agricultural Worker
SBP	School Breakfast Program
SCHIP	State Children's Health Insurance Program
SDR	Survey of Doctorate Recipients
SED	Survey of Earned Doctorates
SEIU	Service Employees International Union
SFSP	Summer Food Service Program
SIPP	Survey of Income and Program Participation
SOFTPAC	Software Professionals Political Action Committee
SPD	Survey of Program Dynamics
SPRANS	special projects of regional and national significance
SSA	Social Security Administration
SSBG	Social Services Block Grant
SSDI	Social Security disability insurance
SSI	Supplemental Security Income
TANF	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
TFP	Thrifty Food Plan
TRIM	Transfer Income Model
TPS	Temporary Protected Status
UAP	University Affiliated Programs
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission on Refugees
USCC	United States Catholic Conference
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USINT	U.S. Interests Section
WASIS	Wrap-Around Services Impact Study
WIC	Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children

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Glossary

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Glossary

Adjustment to Immigrant Status—Procedure allowing certain aliens already in the United States to apply for immigrant status. Aliens admitted to the United States in a nonimmigrant or other category may have their status changed to that of lawful permanent resident if they are eligible to receive an immigrant visa and one is immediately available. In such cases, the alien is counted as an immigrant as of the date of adjustment, even though the alien may have been in the United States for an extended period of time.

Agricultural Workers—As a nonimmigrant class of admission, an alien coming temporarily to the United States to perform agricultural labor or services, as defined by the Secretary of Labor. This nonimmigrant category was established as a separate class of admission by the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986.

Alien—Any person not a citizen or national of the United States.

Amerasian (Vietnam)—Immigrant visas are issued to Amerasians under Public Law 100-202 (Act of December 22, 1987), which provides for the admission of aliens born in Vietnam between January 1, 1962, and January 1, 1976, if the alien was fathered by a U.S. citizen. Spouses, children, and parents or guardians may accompany the alien.

Asylee—An alien in the United States or at a port-of-entry unable or unwilling to return to his or her country of nationality, or to seek the protection of that country because of persecution or a well founded fear of persecution. Persecution or the fear thereof may be based on the alien's race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. For persons with no nationality, the country of nationality is considered to be the country in which the alien last habitually resided. Asylees are eligible to adjust to lawful permanent resident status after 1 year of continuous presence in the United States. These immigrants are limited to 10,000 adjustments per fiscal year.

Cancellation of Removal (Formerly Suspension of Deportation)—A discretionary benefit adjusting an alien's status from that of deportable alien to one lawfully admitted for permanent residence. Application for cancellation of removal is made during the course of a removal hearing before an immigration judge.

Cuban/Haitian Entrant—Status accorded 1) Cubans who entered the United States illegally between April 15, 1980, and October 10, 1980, and 2) Haitians who entered the country illegally before January 1, 1981. Cubans and Haitians meeting these criteria who have continuously resided in the United States since before January 1, 1982, and who were known to the INS before that date, may adjust to permanent residence under a provision of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986.

Immediate Relatives—Certain immigrants who because of their close relationship to U.S. citizens are exempt from the numerical limitations imposed on immigration to the United States. Immediate relatives are: spouses of citizens, children (under 21 years of age) of citizens, parents of citizens 21 years of age or older, and orphans adopted by citizens who are at least 21 years of age.

Immigrant—An alien admitted to the United States as a lawful permanent resident. Immigrants are those persons lawfully accorded the privilege of residing permanently in the United States. They may be issued immigrant visas by the Department of State overseas or adjusted to permanent resident status by the Immigration and Naturalization Service in the United States.

Immigration Act of 1990 (IMMACT90)—Public Law 101-649 (Act of November 29, 1990), which increased total immigration to the United States under an overall flexible cap, revised all grounds for exclusion and deportation, authorized temporary protected status to aliens of designated countries, revised and established new nonimmigrant admission categories, revised and extended the Visa Waiver Pilot Program, and revised naturalization authority and requirements.

Immigration and Nationality Act—The Act which, along with other immigration laws, treaties, and conventions of the United States, relates to the immigration, exclusion, deportation, or expulsion of aliens.

Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) of 1986—Public Law 99-603 (Act of November 6, 1986), which was passed in order to control and deter illegal immigration to the United States. Its major provisions stipulate legalization of undocumented aliens, legalization of certain agricultural workers, sanctions for employers who knowingly hire undocumented workers, and increased enforcement at U.S. borders.

Intracompany Transferee—An alien, employed by an international firm or corporation, who seeks to enter the United States temporarily in order to continue to work for the same employer, or a subsidiary or affiliate, in a capacity that is primarily managerial, executive, or involves specialized knowledge.

National—A person owing permanent allegiance to a State.

Naturalization—The conferring, by any means, of citizenship upon a person after birth.

Nonimmigrant—An alien who seeks temporary entry to the United States for a specific purpose. The alien must have a permanent residence abroad (for most classes of admission) and qualify for the nonimmigrant classification sought. The nonimmigrant classifications are: foreign government officials, visitors for business and for pleasure, aliens in transit through the United States, treaty traders and investors, students, international representatives, temporary workers and trainees, representatives of foreign information media, exchange visitors, fiancé(e)s of U.S. citizens, intracompany transferees, NATO officials, religious workers, and some others. Most nonimmigrants can be accompanied or joined by spouses and unmarried minor (or dependent) children.

Parolee—An alien, appearing to be inadmissible to the inspecting officer, allowed to enter the United States under urgent circumstances or when that alien's entry is determined to have significant public benefit. Parole does not constitute a formal admission to the United States and confers temporary admission status only, requiring parolees to leave when the conditions supporting their parole cease to exist.

Per-Country Limit—The maximum number of family-sponsored and employment-based preference visas that can be issued to any country in a fiscal year. The limits are calculated each fiscal year depending on the total number of family-sponsored and employment-based visas available. No more than 7 percent of the visas may be issued to natives of an independent country in a fiscal year; dependencies of independent countries cannot exceed 2 percent. The per-country limit does not indicate, however, that a country is entitled to the maximum number of visas each year, just that it cannot receive more than that number. Because of the combined workings of the preference system and per-country limits, most countries do not reach this level of visa issuance.

Permanent Resident Alien—See Immigrant.

Preference System (Immigration Act of 1990)—The nine categories since FY 1992 among which the family-sponsored and employment-based immigrant preference visas are distributed. The family-sponsored preferences are: 1) unmarried sons and daughters of U.S. citizens; 2) spouses, children, and unmarried sons and daughters of permanent resident aliens; 3) married sons and daughters of U.S. citizens; 4) brothers and sisters of U.S. citizens. The employment-based preferences are: 1) priority workers (persons of extraordinary ability, outstanding professors and researchers, and certain multinational executives and managers); 2) professionals with advanced degrees or aliens with exceptional ability; 3) skilled workers, professionals (without advanced degrees), and needed unskilled workers; 4) special immigrants; and 5) employment creation immigrants (investors).

Refugee—Any person who is outside his or her country of nationality who is unable or unwilling to return to that country because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution. Persecution or the fear thereof may be based on the alien's race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. A person with no nationality must be outside the country of last habitual residence to qualify as a refugee. Refugees are exempt from numerical limitation (though worldwide ceilings by geographic area are set annually by the President) and are eligible to adjust to lawful permanent residence after 1 year of continuous presence in the United States.

Refugee Approvals—The number of refugees approved for admission to the United States during a fiscal year. Refugee approvals are made by Immigration and Naturalization Service officers in overseas offices.

Refugee Arrivals—The number of refugees the Immigration and Naturalization Service initially admits to the United States through ports of entry during a fiscal year.

Special Immigrants—Certain categories of immigrants who were exempt from numerical limitation before FY 1992 and subject to limitation under the employment-based fourth preference beginning in 1992: persons who lost citizenship by marriage; persons who lost citizenship by serving in foreign armed forces; ministers of religion, their spouses and children; certain employees and former employees of the U.S. Government abroad, their spouses and children; Panama Canal Act immigrants; certain foreign medical school graduates, their spouses and children; certain retired employees of international organizations, their spouses and children; juvenile court dependents; certain aliens serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, their spouses and children; and religious workers, their spouses and children.

Student—As a nonimmigrant class of admission, an alien coming temporarily to the United States to pursue a full course of study in an approved program in either an academic (college, university, seminary, conservatory, academic high school, elementary school, other institution, or language training program) or a vocational or other recognized nonacademic institution.

Treaty Trader or Investor—As a nonimmigrant class of admission, an alien coming temporarily to the United States, under the provisions of a treaty of commerce and navigation between the United States and the foreign state of such alien, to carry on substantial trade or to direct the operations of an enterprise in which he has invested a substantial amount of capital, and the alien's spouse and unmarried minor (or dependent) children.

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